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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,250	05/04/2006	Hitoshi Aoki	Q94731	6724

23373 7590 10/04/2007

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EXAMINER	
MCINTOSH III, TRAVISS C	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1623	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
10/04/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/578,250	AOKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Traviss C. McIntosh	1623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 May 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-7* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *04 May 2006* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *5/4/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 5/4/2006 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington,* 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-7 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 9-17 of copending Application No. 10/593,465. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct

from each other because both applications are drawn to the use of acerola extracts which are used for treating the same diseases. It is noted that the instant application is drawn compositions comprising acerola extracts for use as glucose absorption inhibitors, and methods of making the same comprising grinding the fruit and isolating the extract. The '465 application is drawn to methods of inhibiting blood glucose elevation using acerola extracts. As such, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make a composition comprising acerola extracts with the '465 application in front of them, and also to practice methods of inhibiting glucose absorption with the instant application in front of them.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Objections

Applicant is advised that should claim 1 be found allowable, claim 6 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k). Both claims appear to be drawn to an agent which is an "acerola-derived substance capable of inhibiting glucose absorption", the intended use as set forth in the preamble is not seen to patentably affect the compositions as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for a therapeutic agent for diabetes or diabetic complications, does not reasonably provide enablement for a preventive agent for the same. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Undue experimentation is a conclusion reached by weighing the noted factual considerations set forth below as seen in ***In re Wands, 858 F.2d 731, 737, 8 USPQ2d 1400, 1404 (Fed. Cir. 1988)***. A conclusion of lack of enablement means that, based on the evidence regarding a fair evaluation of an appropriate combination of the factors below, the specification, at the time the application was filed, would not have taught one skilled in the art how to make and/or use the full scope of the claimed invention without undue experimentation.

These factors include:

(A) The breadth of the claims;
(B) The nature of the invention;
(C) The state of the prior art;
(D) The level of one of ordinary skill;
(E) The level of predictability in the art;
(F) The amount of direction provided by the inventor;
(G) The existence of working examples; and
(H) The quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure.

The breadth of the claims/Nature of the Invention:

Claim 6 is drawn to a preventative and/or therapeutic agent for diabetes or diabetic complications comprising an acerola-derived substance. In the absence of an explicit definition in Applicant's specification, "Prevention" as recited in the instant claims, is interpreted to mean the complete and total blocking of all symptoms of a disorder for an indefinite period of time. Any therapy which merely reduces the number or severity of symptoms, or which is effective for a period shorter than the subject's remaining lifespan, is considered to be ineffective at preventing a disorder.

The state of the prior art:

Various pathways for diabetes have been set forth in the art. For example, the sodium-dependant glucose cotransporter SGLT2 has been characterized in the prior art and inhibitors have been developed against SGLT2. For example, Adachi et al. (Reference included with PTO-892) discloses that administering the SGLT2 inhibitor T-1095 lowers blood glucose and improves symptoms of hyperglycemia in diabetic rats. SGLT2 inhibitors are not known to be useful for treating disorders not associated with hyperglycemia. For example, phenylketonuria, homocysteinuria, Pompe's disease, galactosemia, and Gaucher's disease are all metabolic disorders that are not expected to respond to inhibition of SGLT2 based on what is known in the art. Prevention of any disorder in the sense being used herein is not a recognized clinical outcome in the art. Moreover, diuretics are known to cause hyperglycemia, however, there is nothing in the art that would show you would treat hypertension, for example, with an SGLT inhibitor. One might treat the hyperglycemia caused by the diuretic in a patient with hypertension, but you would not actually be treating the condition which requires the use of the diuretic, hypertension in this example.

The level of predictability in the art:

Regarding prevention, prevention of a disease is not the same as treatment of said disease. In order to prevent a disease, as opposed to merely delaying or reducing its symptoms, a dosing must either render the subject completely resistant to said disease after a single treatment or a limited number of treatments, or else, when continued indefinitely, continue to completely suppress the occurrence of said disease. In order to practice a preventative method, one of skill in the art must know the answer to several questions in addition to the effectiveness of the therapy in short-term relief of symptoms, including: 1) What is the duration of a single course of therapy? How often must the therapy be administered to completely suppress the disease? 2) Does the subject develop tolerance to the therapy over time? Does the disease eventually progress to a point where the therapy is unable to completely suppress all symptoms? For example, will a metastatic cancer eventually adapt to overcome treatments directed to preventing it from metastasizing into the bone? Or will a case of osteoporosis or rheumatoid arthritis ultimately progress to a point where symptoms develop regardless of which therapy is administered. 3) What are the long-term effects of the therapy? Does it cause progressive damage to the kidneys, liver, or other organs? Does the active agent accumulate in the subject's tissues? Is the minimum dose necessary to completely prevent the disease safe for long-term administration? Are there any steps that can be taken to reduce side effects? Additionally, because various physiological systems are interdependent and affect one another, any hypothetical preventative treatment would have to be broad-based and treat all of the various causes of a disorder. For example, because osteoporosis is, in the majority of cases, caused at least in part by a reduction in estrogen levels, a true preventative treatment for osteoporosis must

be capable of preventing or reversing menopause in a subject. For this reason, many therapies which are suitable for short-term relief of symptoms are not suitable for lifelong prevention of disease. For example, antibiotics, chemotherapeutics, and antiviral drugs are not normally administered to healthy subjects in order to prevent the development of infection or cancer. Furthermore, a tissue can degenerate for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to, exposure to toxins, chronic viral infection, autoimmune attack, and deposition of amyloid protein. To be fully successful, a preventative method would have to guard against all of these possible insults.

The amount of direction provided by the inventor:

There is no guidance provided for the prevention of diabetes or diabetic complications in the instant disclosure.

The existence of working examples:

The working examples in the instant application are drawn to methods of extracting the active agents from acerola plants; cell culture assays in determining glucose uptake; and a glucose test using mice. No working examples are given showing the prevention of any disease. Note that lack of working examples is a critical factor to be considered, especially in a case involving an unpredictable and undeveloped art such as the treatment of broad categories of disease with a single agent. See MPEP 2164.

The quantity of experimentation needed to make or use the invention based on the content of the disclosure:

In order to practice the claimed invention for the full scope of preventing diabetes, one skilled in the art would be involved in a significant amount of experimentation. Simply knowing if a compound is an inhibitor of blood glucose elevation is not enough to establish preventative

utility as the clinical use. For these reasons practicing the full scope of the invention would present an undue burden of unpredictable experimentation to one skilled in the art. Genentech, 108 F.3d at 1366, sates that, "a patent is not a hunting license. It is not a reward for search, but compensation for its successful conclusion." And "patent protection is granted in return for an enabling disclosure of an invention, not for vague intimations of general ideas that may or may not be workable." Therefore, in view of the Wands factors, as discussed above, applicants fail to provide information sufficient to practice the claimed invention for the treatment of all metabolic disorders or diseases or conditions which can be influenced by inhibiting SGLT.

As mentioned above, the short-term usefulness of a therapy for relief of symptoms is no guarantee of its long-term usefulness for prevention of disease. Because no guidance is given for the use of the claimed therapeutic method for the long-term prevention of disease, one skilled in the art wishing to practice the invention would be unable to do so without first gathering information as to the long-term effectiveness of the therapy. In particular, one skilled in the art, in order to practice the invention for prevention of disease, would need to know whether the preventative effect remains potent over the long term. In order to answer these questions in the absence of any existing data, one skilled in the art, in order to practice the invention, would undertake long-term animal tests, preferably over a period of years, preferably involving a relatively long-lived experimental animal such as dogs or monkeys, or a human clinical trial. Animal experiments include, along with induction of the disease state, administration of the potential pharmaceutical compound and collection and analysis of data, additional burdens associated with compliance with animal welfare regulations, care, feeding, and other maintenance of the animals, dissection of dead animals to collect data, and disposal of dead

animals after the protocol is finished. Administering the claimed compounds for a period of years to a suitable subject population is an undue amount of experimentation needed in order to practice the full range of the claimed invention. As prevention in the full sense is an extremely high bar for any clinical outcome, there is no reason to believe that the therapy would be successful, and any actual success would be a surprising and unpredictable result.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 6 is drawn to a preventive and/or therapeutic agent. It is unclear how the agent can both prevent and treat, as if the agent prevented the disorder, no therapy would be required, and if the agent was used for therapy, then it was not successful as a preventative agent.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Majoie (US 4,229,439).

Claims 1-6 of the instant application are drawn to various inhibitors of glucose absorption, comprising as an active agent an acerola-derived substance capable of inhibiting glucose absorption. The claims are further limit the extract to a polyphenol containing an anthocyanin pigment. It is noted that the examiner is interpreting these as composition claims, as the claims require an active agent.

Majoie disclose compositions comprising cyanidin 3-rhamnoglucoside (compound IV, column 2, lines 14-16) and teaches the use in treating diabetes and for improving collagen synthesis (a diabetic complication – see column 1, lines 20-32). It is noted that the active agent in the instant applications extract is seen to be cyanidin 3-rhamnoside or pelargonidin 3-rhamnoside. As such, the art teaches a composition comprising as an active ingredient, cyanidin 3-rhamnoglucoside, which is a acerola-derived substance, which meets the limitations of claims 1-6 of the instant application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Traviss C. McIntosh whose telephone number is 571-272-0657. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Shaojia A. Jiang can be reached on 571-272-0627. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Traviss C. McIntosh
September 26, 2007

Shaojia A. Jiang
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Art Unit 1623